



Gregory J. Nickels,  
Mayor  
City of Seattle

## PRO PARKS LEVY

800 Maynard Ave S., 3rd Floor  
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[www.cityofseattle.net/parks/pro Parks/](http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/pro Parks/)

## ORCHARD STREET RAVINE IMPROVEMENTS

### VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (VMP)

JULY 13, 2006 6:30 TO 8 P.M.

### MEETING #3 SUMMARY

#### **Synopsis:**

Approximately 27 people attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final meeting in a series to develop the vegetation management plan (VMP) for this site. A final draft of the VMP was prepared and modifications or decisions made since meeting #2 were discussed. Park staff provided a short update on the consultant's Through Trail Feasibility Study (TTFS). Parks Volunteer Coordinator presented "How to become a volunteer." The group set two work party dates to begin the restoration work. They will be August 12<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup>. Loop trail construction and contracted restoration work will also be starting in the next month. Notices about construction work and workparties will be posted on the project website and at the site project information signs.

#### **Through Trail Feasibility Study Update:**

TTFS update: The study by SvR Design Company, consultants, was not distributed/available at the meeting, but will be available on-line shortly for public review. The study indicates that both routes considered, either from 38<sup>th</sup> Ave SW or from 36<sup>th</sup> Ave SW/SW Orchard St are technically feasible. The 38<sup>th</sup> Ave SW connection is recommended by the consultants as having the least impact to the site and being the most cost effective to construct and maintain in the future.

Comment on the TTFS was not taken at this meeting, however Park staff requested that the document be reviewed and any comments can be directed to Karen Galt (info below). Several attendees expressed frustration and indicated this update was the reason they came to this meeting. A separate meeting will be scheduled and held to discuss the study. The consultant will be available for presentation and questions. Community members are requested to submit agenda items and comments on the study to Park staff prior to this upcoming meeting. The meeting will be scheduled for August. Following public comments on the study, Parks will make a decision on the through trail.

#### **VMP update and presentation of final document:**

The final VMP will be available on-line shortly. Park staff and the VMP consultant discussed issues from the 2<sup>nd</sup> VMP meeting and comment period, and how they've been addressed.

- *2 major tree recommendations:* The Lombardy poplar in the west portion of the site is planned to be turned into a habitat snag. This species is problematic city wide and will significantly increase the effort required to restore this area to native forest. The Red alder tree at the end of the cul-de-sac will be dead-wood pruned in the near term and monitored over time for future habitat "snagging." There was strong concern by one attendee over the removal of the poplar.

*Send additional comments to:*

Karen Galt, Landscape Architect, Seattle Parks and Recreation Engineering and Design  
800 Maynard Ave. S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Seattle, WA 98134 or e-mail [karen.galt@seattle.gov](mailto:karen.galt@seattle.gov), or call: 206-684-7104



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- *timing of blackberry removal:* The two large areas of blackberry, Area 2 “Blackberry Thicket” and Area 3 “Blackberry Steep” are planned to be cleared together, and as an initial phase of restoration, possibly as soon as August.
- *adjustments to lower access paths:* The west path has been pared down as much as possible to serve as restoration access, in the future it can be reassessed if it needs to be upgraded or if it simply disappears as the restoration work proceeds. The east loop path is the primary developed trail and extends up into the ravine. It does not preclude connections to future trails by its location or extent.
- *review alternate watering methods to reduce costs:* A new service will be provided to the site, however a fully automated system will not be developed. The VMP work includes budget for restoration contracted watering for the first few years, however after that the site will be more dependent on volunteer watering of any new plantings. This infrastructure reduction allowed more of the projected budget to be directed to restoration activities.

The final VMP includes an implementation timeline that spans approximately 10 years. The bulk of the high priority restoration activities will be supported in the next few years by the Pro Parks Levy funds. However, not all work has funding in place, particularly in later years. Now is a good time to leverage the Levy funding and apply for supporting grants that could fund specific restoration activities outlined in the plan. A list of potential grant resources is also provided in the document.

The VMP work will proceed as outlined and it remains flexible enough to not preclude any decisions regarding a through connecting trail. Work is focused in the western and lower elevation areas to start. If major issues arise that indicate modifications to the plan are needed, Parks will remain flexible and adjust as necessary.

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

***Thanks again for your continued interest and participation to help make this wonderful natural area even better!***

### **Post-meeting dialogue synopsis:**

Several community members stayed around for about another 20 minutes and discussed the earlier planning process, their discontent or acceptance of that process and its outcomes. Keeping an open and transparent process is important to all participants; there seems to be a difference of opinion on what that means. Erin Devoto, PDD Director, and other Parks staff explained how Parks approached the project and offered that any further discussion should be at the next public meeting. Some folks stated that the highest priority for the site is restoration work. Some folks stated that the best use of public funds would be to provide a connecting trail. It was also stated that there is an expectation in the community that after the TTFS was completed, they would contact Parks to see about available funding for the work. It was suggested at this time to submit meeting agenda items to Karen Galt for the to-be-scheduled meeting to discuss the TTFS. This is being planned for August.

*Send additional comments to:*

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